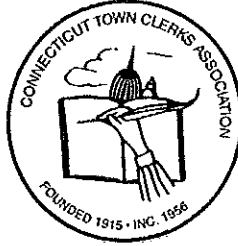


# *Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.*



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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 11, 2013**

**SB 779 – AN ACT CONCERNING OVERVOTING OF CROSS-ENDORSED CANDIDATES**

Good Morning Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and the distinguished members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee. My name is Barbara Thompson and I am the Town Clerk of Wallingford and an Advisory Board member of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association Legislative Committee.

I would like to thank my State Senator Len Fasano for introducing Senate Bill 779, An Act Concerning Overvoting of Cross-Endorsed Candidates. It is a very important issue; one Wallingford and the Connecticut Town Clerks Association support. This bill will help clarify the vote tally for each candidate immediately at the polling location. This will ensure the integrity of the voter's right to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Currently and as we saw in the 2012 Election, all votes that were cast for a Major Party candidate and then also for the Minor Party candidate (cross endorsed) were kicked out as an "UNKNOWN" vote. Then the Registrar's and Clerks were instructed by the Secretary of the State's Office to use a widget online to calculate the "UNKNOWN" vote. This calculation distributed the vote between the two parties in a formula that was not easy to understand.

Allowing at the polling place the ability to have the tally machine to reject the ballot if it is an over vote would ensure voter integrity by having the voter immediately redo their ballot correctly choosing only one candidate. Absentee Ballots would be hand counted and the vote would go to the Party Candidate that the Secretary of State's office determines to be qualified.

This allows for a more accurate and accountable vote, and less interpretation of the vote. It also helps cut down on the number of rejected ballots, which equate to a non-vote. Our greatest concern is that the voter integrity remains intact and that all candidates receive the proper vote tally they deserve.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Thompson, CCTC  
Wallingford Town Clerk  
Advisory Board CTCA Legislative Committee